

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### PELL GRANTS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address last week, the President of the United States discussed his plan to make college more affordable and more accessible to working families by increasing funding for Pell grants.

Pell grants serve as the very foundation of student aid for low- and middle-income families. The President's proposal would raise the maximum Pell grant award to \$3,000 and would raise the total number of Pell grant recipients to over 4 million.

Mr. Speaker, I promised the people of Massachusetts that the first bill that I introduced in this House would make college more affordable for working families. This month I intend to keep that promise.

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I will be introducing a bill that expands the President's proposal and expands the maximum Pell grant award to \$5,000, bringing the award to the level at which it was created, adjusted for inflation. More students will be eligible for larger awards, giving more families the chance to send their kids to college and to realize the American dream.

I thank the President of the United States for his leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in making education more affordable and in making our children's future even more bright.

#### MYTH: WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS KNOW BEST HOW TO SPEND AMERICA'S MONEY

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was amazed again yesterday when I read Secretary Rubin's statement in Congress Daily, implying that tax cuts would unduly harm our economy.

Think about it: What Secretary Rubin really thinks is that Washington bureaucrats know better how to spend the American people's money than the American people themselves. It takes a lot of nerve to suggest to the American people, who have to balance their own budgets, pay their own bills on time, that the Federal Government, which does not do these things, will make better decisions about managing money than they will.

It takes a lot of nerve, especially since this President is proposing an additional \$1 billion in spending for a bureaucracy whose financial books are

unauditable. What responsible American would put a billion dollars into a company whose books were unauditable?

This is not about tax cuts. It is about arrogance, the arrogance of the President and his advisors suggesting that a dollar spent by Washington bureaucrats is better spent than a dollar spent by parents, families, across America.

#### NO TIME TO WASTE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, while Democrats and the President have developed sweeping plans to strengthen our education system and provide health care for the 10 million children in this country who currently have no coverage, the Republicans have offered no specifics in return. Instead of immediately turning Congress' focus to programs that make a real difference in people's lives, like tax breaks to help pay for college, the repair of decaying elementary schools and insurance for uninsured infants, today instead the GOP has scheduled a vote on term limits.

If history is any indication, Mr. Speaker, time will show the GOP's interest in term limits today is nothing more than a delay tactic. Term limits will do nothing for schools badly in need of repair. Term limits will not teach a child to read or ensure our children receive medical attention when they fall sick.

I think we have a lot more important things to consider and we do not have time to waste. The sooner the Republican leadership learns this, the sooner we can provide quality education and health care to our children instead of spending the time today on term limits.

#### FEDERAL ESTATE TAX SHOULD BE REPEALED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to speak about my first bill and to implore my colleagues to repeal the Federal estate tax. This tax hits millions of families and small farm and business owners.

This unfair tax for too long has been burdening people of this country at one of the most difficult times in their lives, at the time of the death of a loved one. It forces them to sell assets just inherited by them so they can pay unreasonable sums to the Federal coffers.

Mr. Speaker, numerous people across the country stand to lose family farms and businesses that they have worked their entire lives to build. Faye Givler, owner of Steckel Printing and em-

ployer of 94 people in Lancaster, PA, stands to lose her life's work with this tax. Her children, just because of this tax, stand to lose it all.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. With 65 cents of this tax going to enforcement and compliance, what sense is there in inflicting such stress on Americans who work hard to build their children's future? This tax threatens that simple dream. I urge my colleagues to repeal this unfair tax.

#### WHERE IS THE APPLE FOR OUR TEACHERS?

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am meeting with representatives from the education community from the State of Texas. I want to give them hope and, most importantly, I want to answer the question, where is the apple for our teachers?

Interestingly enough, as the bipartisan team met with the President last evening, education was high on the priority, but yet today we will spend 9 hours or so talking about term limits, when the American people can elect or unelect their elected officials every 2 years.

Two years ago the Republicans were talking about slashing title I programs by \$4.9 billion. If education is so important, let us get about the business of doing what we are supposed to do. Let us ensure that we have the right number of Pell grants for our college students, and our college student direct loan program. Let us really talk about education so that something happens.

Let us not just fool around with political gimmickry and term limits when we all know the American people will elect us or unelect us every 2 years. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and make education my priority and make this Nation the very best it can be for the rest of this 21st century.

#### SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, it happens in every household, in every business, both large and small, in every school system, in every city council, in every county government, in every checking account across the Nation, everywhere but here in the Federal Government. This Government has not balanced its budget since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. It should be easier to balance the Federal budget than to get someone to the moon.

When we borrow money for all these lofty enterprises for the Federal Government, for each dollar that we borrow it takes at least \$3 just to cover the interest to pay it back. So let us